

Army Declass Instructions on File

24 September 1945

Dr. L. Don Leet  
Geological Museum  
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Leet:

I have just received your letter of 20 September, inclosing your "Proposal for a Geophysical Research Institute of the Pacific." The proposal is logical and exceedingly interesting.

From your letter, I am not sure whether you have already arranged to have this plan introduced as part of the public hearings now pending before Congress. It is my understanding that the Magnuson Bill is designed to implement the organization outlined in Dr. Bush's report in which he proposed the establishment of a National Research Foundation. The Institute you propose would seem to fit into the overall structure of the National Research Foundation. However, as a layman I am anxious to avoid assuming this unless you tell me that it is so.

For the secondary reasons I discussed with you some time ago, as well as because of the intrinsic merits of your proposal, I should like to help it along. My first care, of course, is to be sure that any steps I might initiate will not be unintentionally at cross purposes with what you have done already. My idea is that it would be very appropriate for G-2 to express his interest to Dr. Bush, through the New Developments Division of the War Department, recommending favorable consideration of this proposal in connection with support of the Magnuson Bill. Would that be consistent with previous steps known to you?

Thanking you for your letter, and hoping to be advised in regard to the above,

Very sincerely yours,

CHARLES P. NICHOLAS  
Colonel, GSC